

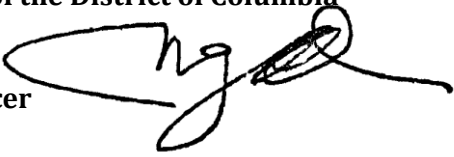
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi 
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: February 13, 2013

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – “Supercans for Seniors Act of 2013”

REFERENCE: Bill 20-14 as Introduced on January 8, 2013

Conclusion

Funds are not sufficient in the FY 2013 through FY 2016 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. Implementation of the bill will cost the Department of Public Works \$486,000 in FY 2013 and \$778,000 over the four-year financial plan.

Background

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is responsible for the District’s residential trash and recycling collections. Residential trash and recycling collections are done once or twice a week and residents can purchase from DPW a regular recycling can or regular trash can (32-gallons) or a supercan (96-gallon) to hold their trash between collections.

The bill requires DPW to provide, free of charge, both a recycling can and a trash can to all new residents 65 years of age or older and one replacement of each container to all senior residents.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are not sufficient in the FY 2013 through FY 2016 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. Implementation of the bill will cost the Department of Public Works \$486,000 in FY 2013 and \$778,000 over the four-year financial plan.

Currently, there are approximately 18,000 senior homeowners¹ in the District and each one would be eligible to receive replacement trash and recycling cans if needed. When DPW offered a discount

¹ 18,070 is the average of 2010 through 2012 single-family homeowners taking advantage of the senior citizen property tax relief program.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 20-14, "Supercans for Seniors Act of 2013" as introduced on January 8, 2013

to senior residents in fiscal years 2010 and 2011, an average of 150 seniors took advantage of the program each year.² Since there would be no charge associated with this program, it is expected that significantly more seniors would participate. If 25 percent of eligible seniors requested a replacement supercan and regular recycling can in FY 2013 at \$62.50 and \$45 respectively, the cost to the District would be \$486,000. If an additional five percent of remaining eligible seniors requested replacement cans in subsequent years, the cost would be \$73,000 annually. DPW is unable to absorb these costs in its existing budget.

² The discount program was eliminated in Fiscal Year 2012 due to budget limitations.